



U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SECOND PERSON ARRESTED IN SEIZURE
OF 154 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE**

Baltimore, Maryland. United States Attorney Thomas M. DiBiagio announced that Donald Emanuel Ryan, age 41, of Baltimore, Maryland was arrested and charged by criminal complaint today with conspiracy to import more than five kilograms of cocaine into the United States from the Republic of Guyana.

The criminal complaint alleges that in mid-February of this year, agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) received information that approximately 155 kilograms of cocaine were being shipped via freighter from the Republic of Guyana to Savannah, Georgia. The cocaine was to be inside a shipping container packed with building products. Agents also learned that Ryan was serving as a broker for the parties involved in shipping the cocaine. In exchange for facilitating the transaction, Ryan was to receive a portion of the cocaine shipment or proceeds from the sale of the cocaine.

The freighter arrived in Savannah on February 24 and the container was then driven under ICE surveillance to the Baltimore area. In the early morning hours of February 26, Ryan was observed arriving at the location of the container and conversing with Paul Chooweenam, who was

charged by criminal complaint yesterday, as approximately 10 of the bricks containing cocaine were placed on a table in front of him. Agents subsequently placed Ryan under arrest.

If convicted, Ryan faces a sentence of up to life imprisonment and a \$4 million fine.

A complaint or indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by either complaint or indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

This investigation was conducted jointly by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Baltimore City Police Department under the HIDTA Seaport Group, whose members also include the Baltimore County Police Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Department of Natural Resources Police, the Maryland State Police and the Ocean City Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys James G. Warwick and Craig M. Wolff.